

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the previous amendments and the following remarks.

The abstract is amended as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the abstract is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-25 are canceled. Accordingly, the claim objections and claim rejections are moot.

New Claim 26 recites a housing for connecting a portable smart device to a terminal device including an opening that defines a functional position for communicating with the smart device when the smart device is received in the opening, an input connecting means for connecting with the smart device when the smart device is located at the functional position, so as to receive data from the smart device, and an output connecting means for transmitting the received data to the terminal device. The housing also includes a transparent portion for allowing at least a portion of the smart device to be visible therethrough when the smart device is located at the functional position and connected to the input connector.

The Yap publication, the primary reference applied to the previously pending claims, discloses a remote reader 1 for a smart card 10 having a memory chip 19 and control indicia 14 thereon. The remote reader 1 includes a transparent touch panel 8 which overlies the control indicia 14 when the smart card 10 is inserted into the remote reader 1. As discussed in lines 51-56 of column 5 of Yap, the remote reader 1 reads data associated with control indicia 14 from the chip 19. Based on information corresponding to the pressure sensed by the touch panel 8, and with

referral to the data, the remote reader 1 controls an external device such as a video console, as discussed in lines 2-5 of column 6 of Yap.

From the above, it is clear that Yap does not have an input connecting means for connecting with a smart device so as to receive data from the smart device, along with an output connecting means for transmitting the received data to a terminal device. The data received from Yap's smart card 10 is only referred to during control of the external device. Yap's data is by no means transmitted to the external device.

Moreover, the Jelinek patent, the secondary reference applied to the previously pending claims, does not cure the above-noted deficiencies of the Yap publication. Claim 26 is therefore allowable.

New Claim 32 recites a housing for connecting a chip card having opposed top and bottom faces to a terminal device including an opening that defines a functional position for communicating with the card when the card is received in the opening, an input connecting means for connecting with the card when the card is located at the functional position, so as to receive data from the card, and an output connecting means for transmitting data to the terminal device. The housing also includes a transparent portion for allowing at least a portion of the opposed top face of the card and at least a portion of the opposed bottom face of the card to be visible therethrough when the card is located at said functional position and connected to the input connector.

The Yap publication discloses a transparent touch panel 8. However, the panel 8 is located only on one side of the remote housing 1, and is thus not configured to allow least a portion of an opposed top face of a card and at least a

portion of an opposed bottom face of a card to be visible therethrough when the card is located at a functional position and connected to an input connector.

Moreover, the Jelinek patent does not cure the above-noted deficiencies of the Yap publication. Claim 32 is therefore also allowable.

New Claim 38 recites a housing for establishing a communication link between a chip card and an external terminal device, including a functional position for receiving the chip card so as to establish a communication link between the chip card and the external terminal device, and a part at least partially covering the functional position, wherein the part comprises a transparent or translucent material.

For reasons consistent with the above discussion of Claim 26, the Yap publication does not disclose a functional position for receiving a chip card so as to establish a communication link between the chip card and an external terminal device. Moreover, the Jelinek patent does not cure the above-noted deficiencies of the Yap publication. Claim 38 is therefore also allowable.

The dependent claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependence from allowable independent claims. Thus, a detailed discussion of the additional distinguishing features recited in the dependent claims is not set forth at this time.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful

in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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